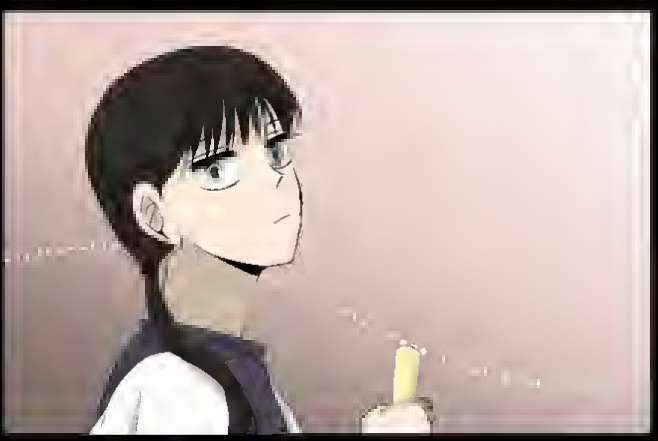
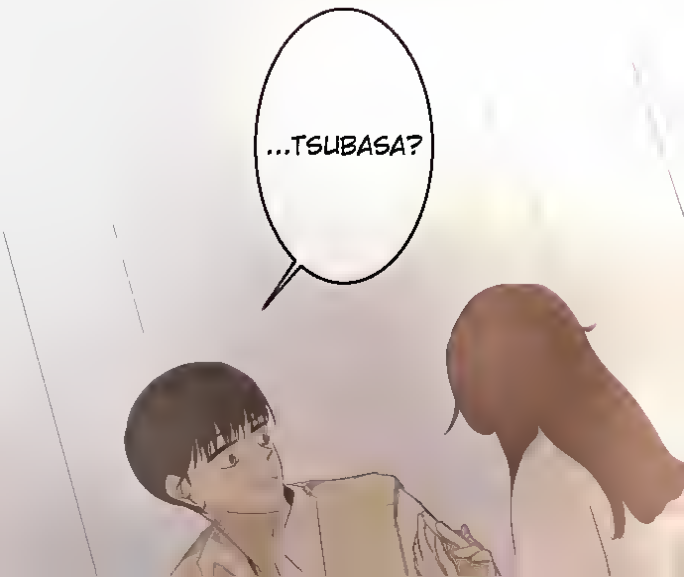
TSUBASA-CHAN, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE OUR HOUSE AS THE LOCATION FOR THE STUDY GROUP?



THE DAY THEY BAKED COOKIES

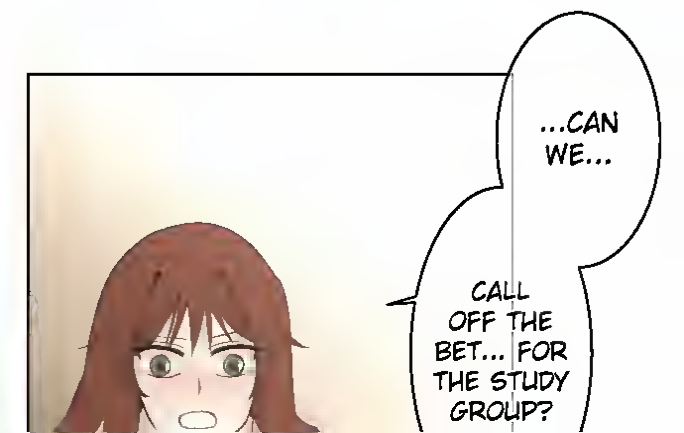
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T THINK YUU WILL JOIN IF I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
SINCE WE GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AGAIN.
I WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS WHO WILL GET ALONG WITH YUU AS WELL.

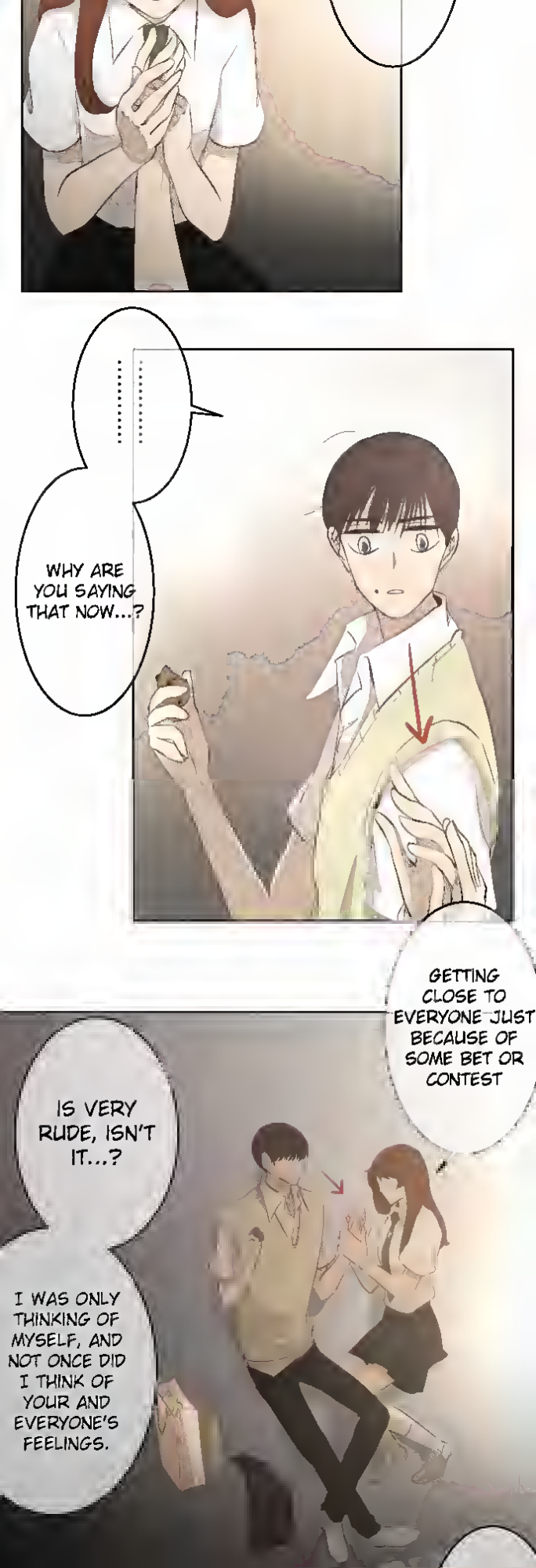
...OR SO I SELFISHLY SAID.



WHAT'S THE MATTER? ALL OF A SUDDEN...

...YUU
I KNOW THIS IS SHAMELESS OF ME AFTER I GOT YOU INVOLVED WITHOUT ASKING YOUR OPINION FIRST...


...CAN WE...
CALL OFF THE BET... FOR THE STUDY GROUP?


.....
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT NOW...?
GETTING CLOSE TO EVERYONE JUST BECAUSE OF SOME BET OR CONTEST
IS VERY RUDE, ISN'T IT...?
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF MYSELF, AND NOT ONCE DID I THINK OF YOUR AND EVERYONE'S FEELINGS.

IT WAS MY MISTAKE FROM THE VERY BE-GINNING...
IF I WANTED EVERYONE TO NOT MIS-UNDERSTAND US, THEN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF I KEEP A DISTANCE FROM YOU.

HMM?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO KEEP A DISTANCE BETWEEN US STARTING NOW.
HUH?
WE CAN'T CHANGE OUR SEATS, SO LET'S JUST LESSEN OUR CONVERSA-TIONS.

AND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, LET'S TRY NOT TO GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.
WHAT?
HEY, WA-
ALSO... IT'S TOO LATE FOR THIS NOW, BUT IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE ADDRESS EACH OTHER USING OUR SUR-NAMES.
AYA-NO!!
ヒクッ

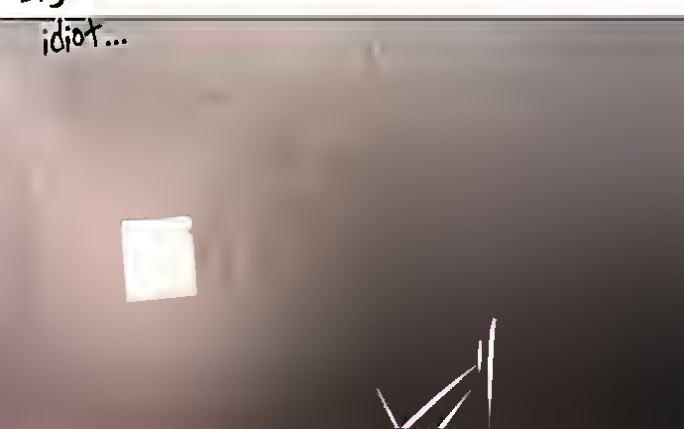
ACTUALLY... LET'S JUST CALL EACH OTHER BY OUR FIRST NAMES...
The one who was called-
and the one who called-
BOTH GOT
GOOSE BUMPS
...NOT THAT !!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE STUDY GROUP, BUT HOW DID OUR CONVERSATION CHANGED INTO THIS TOPIC? I COULDN'T QUITE FOLLOW.
...IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T PROPERLY MAKE FRIENDS...
THAT I KEEP ON CLINGING TO YOU.

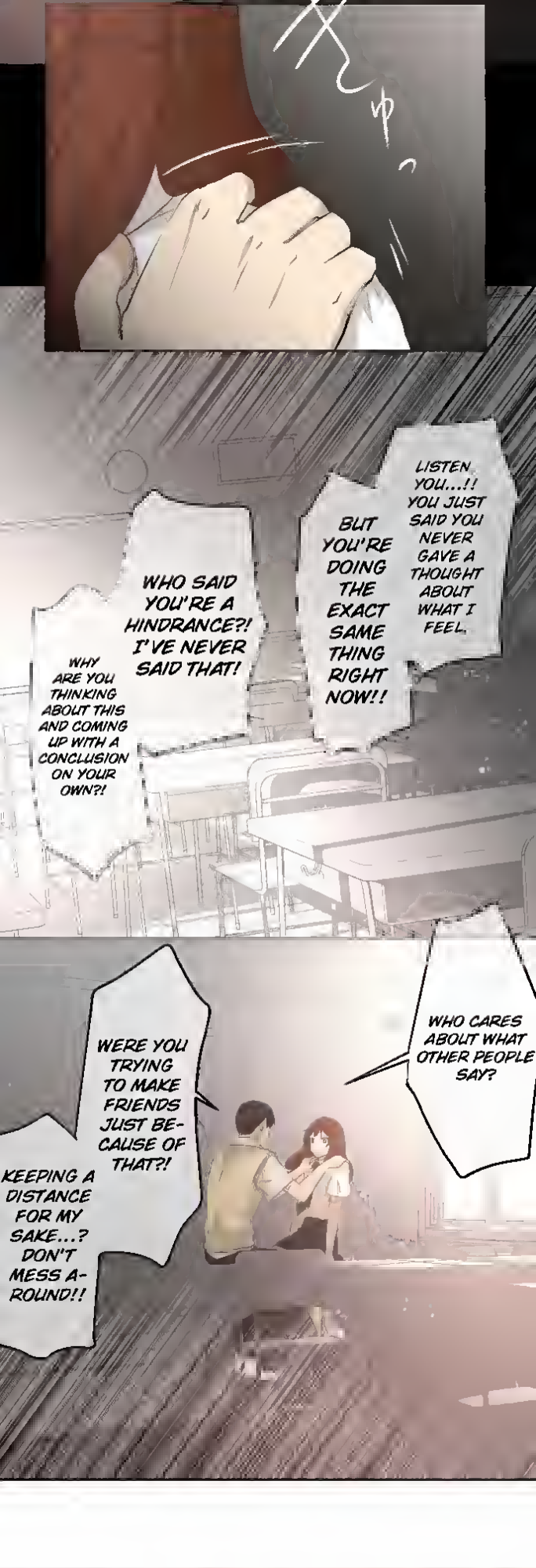
AND IN THE END, PEOPLE STILL MISUNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE DATING...
I DON'T MIND IF YOU CLING TO ME MORE
Like some BUT
Go ahead
I CAN'T CLING TO YOU!! WERE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
I DON'T WANT TO BE A HINDRANCE TO YOU ANY MORE THAN THIS!
THAT'S WHY...
...TSU-BASA

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SAY THIS RIGHT AFTER PUTTING ON AIRS, BUT...
YOU...
BIG-ASS IDIOT!!

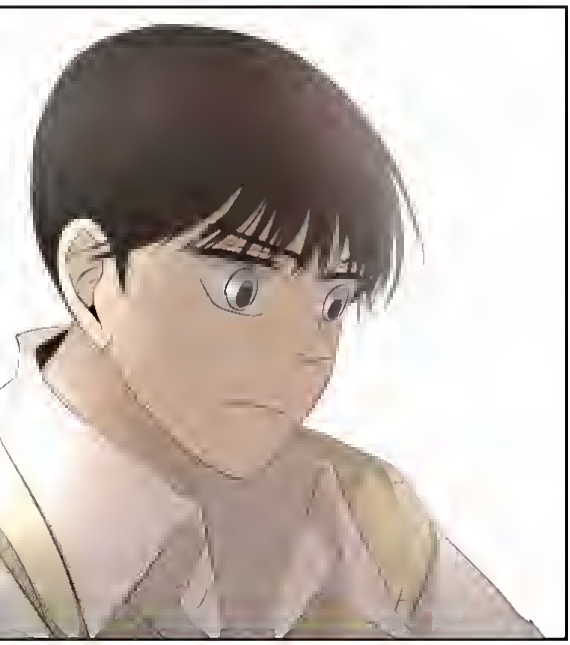
Big-ass idiot...

Big-ass idiot...



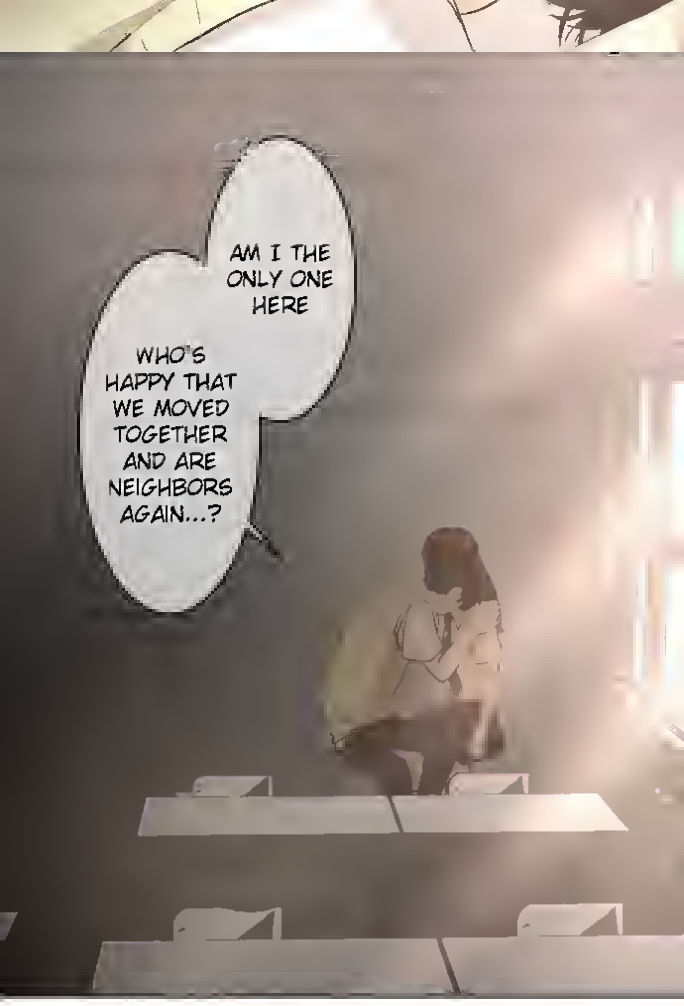

LISTEN YOU...!! YOU JUST SAID YOU NEVER GAVE A THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I FEEL.
BUT YOU'RE DOING THE EXACT SAME THING RIGHT NOW!!
WHO SAID YOU'RE A HINDRANCE?! I'VE NEVER SAID THAT!
WHY ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THIS AND COMING UP WITH A CONCLUSION ON YOUR OWN?!
WHO CARES ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY?
WERE YOU TRYING TO MAKE FRIENDS JUST BECAUSE OF THAT?!
KEEPING A DISTANCE FOR MY SAKE...? DON'T MESS AROUND!!

THAT WON'T MAKE ME HAPPY EVEN ONE BIT!!



SO STOP...
hic
.....
hic
hic
.....

TSUBAASAAAA
hic
hic
hic
NO, THIS ISN'T ON PURPOSE. I SWEAR HIC
THIS ISN'T HIC ON PURPOSE, OKAY...! HIC
It's because you suddenly raised your voice !
Hiccups, read the mood and stop it...!
hic
HEY, AM I... A HINDRANCE?


AM I THE ONLY ONE HERE
WHO'S HAPPY THAT WE MOVED TOGETHER AND ARE NEIGHBORS AGAIN...?

hic
hic
HUH...?
hic

N-NO. THAT'S NOT WHAT HIC I MEANT...
IT'S JUST... I WAS THINKING, "WHAT IF WE KEEP SOME DISTANCE?"... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

Is clearly hurting
GIOOM
the one who hurt him
I... HATE THAT.
I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER EVEN FROM NOW ON,

Oh, man. That's not my intention for saying that.
JUST LIKE HOW WE HAVE BEEN.
I didn't want to hurt you.

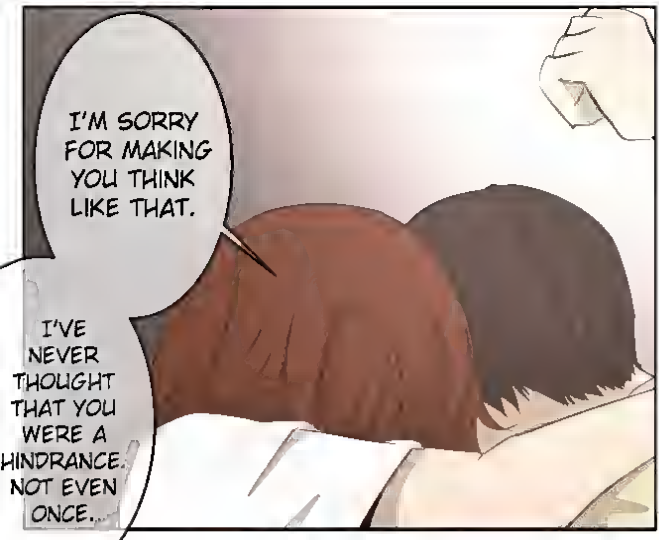
I'm sorry, Murakami-san.

Because of my rash actions, I've hurt you. I'm sorry.

I have to apologize properly to the girls who received cookies.

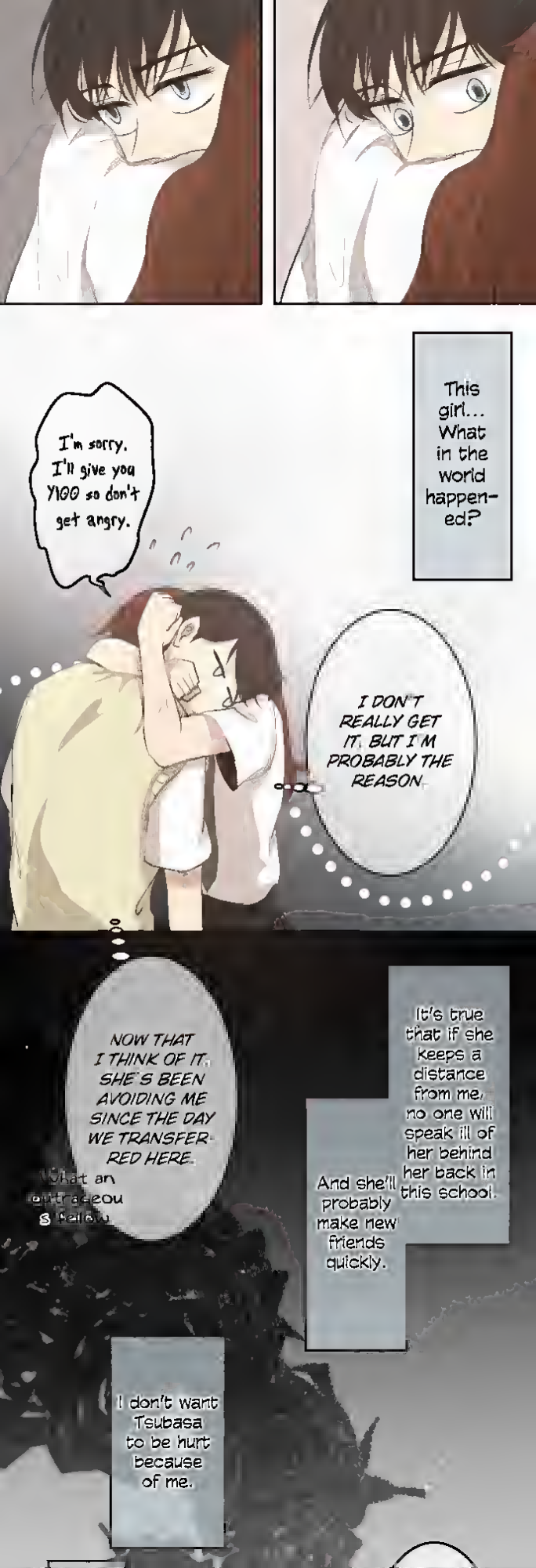
FUMM !!
GU HA ?!

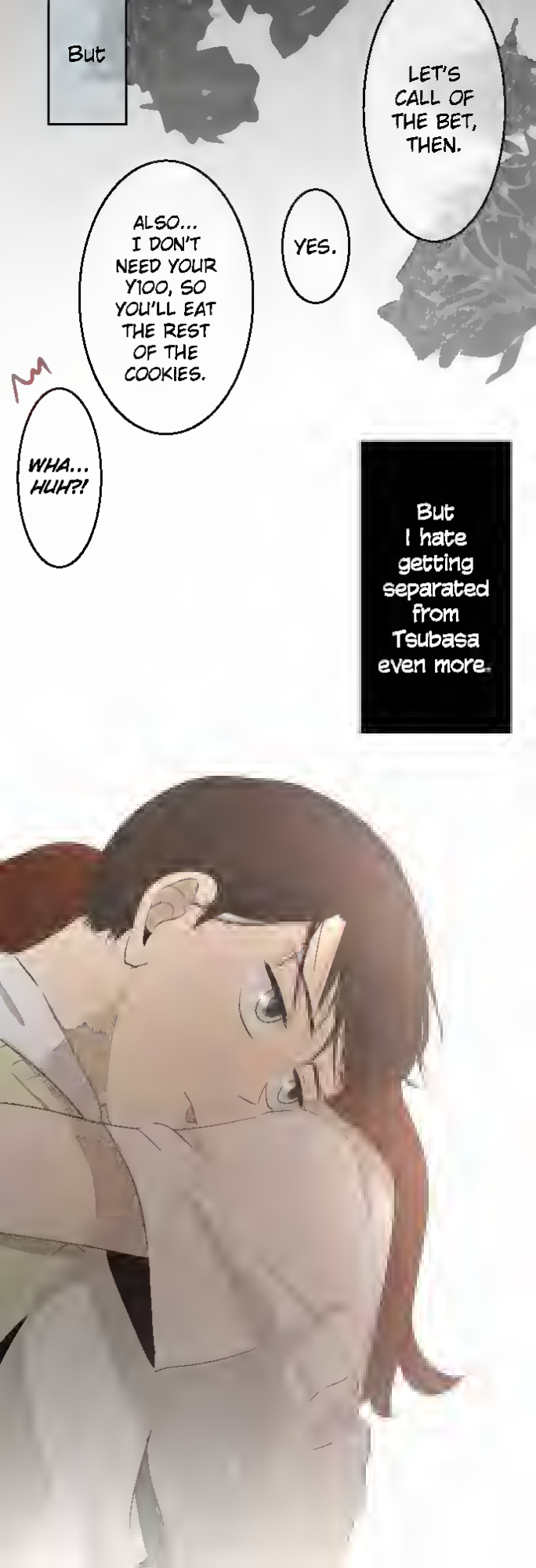
But getting separated from Yuu
T-TSU-BASA? WHAT'S THE MEAN-ING OF THIS?
A-ARE YOU ERASING ME BECAUSE I'M A HINDRANCE? AM I GONNA GET ERASED?! AM I?!
SORRY.



is still impossible for me.

I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER, TOO.


This girl... What in the world happened?
I'm sorry. I'll give you YIGO so don't get angry.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT I'M PROBABLY THE REASON.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, SHE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME SINCE THE DAY WE TRANSFERRED HERE.
What an outrageous fellow
It's true that if she keeps a distance from me, no one will speak ill of her behind her back in this school.
And she'll probably make new friends quickly.
I don't want Tsubasa to be hurt because of me.

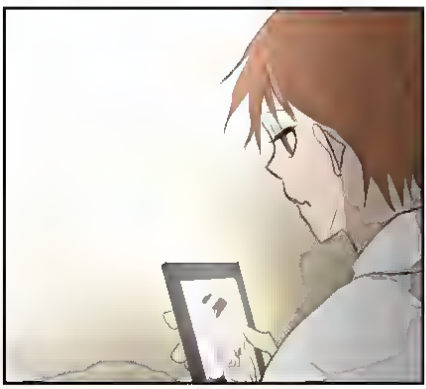

But
LET'S CALL OF THE BET, THEN.
YES.
ALSO... I DON'T NEED YOUR Y100, SO YOU'LL EAT THE REST OF THE COOKIES.
WHA... HUH?!
But I hate getting separated from Tsubasa even more.

He and I

She and I

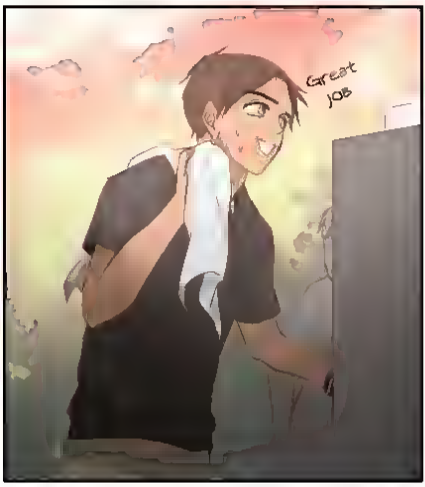
ARE STILL AWKWARD.

WE HURT AND GET HURT,



THINGS NEVER GO THE WAY WE WANT THEM TO, BUT

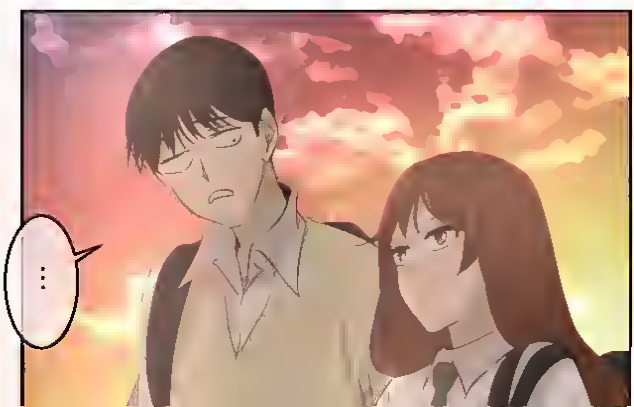
EVEN SO, WE CAN ONLY STRUGGLE.



BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, LET'S BE TOGETHER.

…

I'LL MAKE CHOCOLATES ONCE I GET HOME.



...AREN'T WE CALLING OFF THE STUDY GROUP AS WELL?
THAT'S NOT IT!
THIS TIME, I'M MAKING THEM ONLY WITH THE INTENTION OF GETTING ALONG WITH EVERYONE!
ALL BY MYSELF!
SERIOSLY... WHAT AN AWKWARD FELLOW
Why are you always attacking using food?
BUT ARE YOU... GONNA BE ALRIGHT?

I'LL BE ALRIGHT! I MAKE CHOCOLATES WITH HOTARU EVERY YEAR, SO I'M SURE I CAN MAKE SOME BY MYSELF...
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.
HOW'S YOUR STUDYING COMING ALONG?

I THOUGHT SO.
I FORGOT.

P-Pardon... Shove me the notes of an honor student. No, hard on ever.

And while you're at it teach me, too.

I'M NOT DOING WELL THIS TIME TOO... I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT ON YOUR OWN.

WE AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WANT US TO BE TOGETHER, ICHINOSE-KUN?

I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER, TOO...

DOOOOO SOMETHING ABOUT THE TEEEEEE ESTSS!!

LET GOOOOO!!

カカオ79%

19: Together

Story & Art Aoi Umi
TL & TS: amplified
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To Continued